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DEADLINE FOR ENGG COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PUSHED TO NOV 30

Classes for freshers in engineering colleges and technical institutions will begin from Dec 1, the AICTE said on Monday

CONTINUING COVID SITUATION BLAMED

The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) said that because of continuing Covid situation in the country, requests from state governments, and the fact that premier institutions like IITs and NITs are in the middle of the admission process, it has extended the admission deadline for first-year engineering courses to November 30

ONLINE, OFFLINE OR BLENDED MODE

- Classes may subsequently begin on December 1 through online, offline or blended mode, AICTE Secretary Rajive Kumar said
- Institutions that have already started online classes have been asked to either postpone them or conduct special classes for those who are required to appear for final-year exams | P9

Revised

ACADEMIC CALENDAR FOR 2020-21 CAN BE VIEWED AT: WWW.AICTE-INDIA.ORG

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARWAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers the centenary convocation address of the University of Mysore on Monday | UDAYSHANKAR S

NEP will change edu system: PM

In convocation address, Modi says efforts on to make India global hub of higher studies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

SKILLING, reskilling and upskilling are the need of the hour and the National Education Policy (NEP) focuses on these aspects to improve the quality of students, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, delivering the centenary convocation address of Mysore University on Monday.

Modi, whose address was beamed virtually, suggested that Mysore University should successfully implement the NEP and empower its students. "The National Education Policy will bring in fundamental changes to the entire education system, from pre-nursery to PhD. The focus is on a multi-dimensional approach which is capable of making the youth of our country more competitive. On one hand, it will improve the future of the education sector, while on the other it will help empower our youth. Efforts are being made at all levels to make India a global hub of higher education," he said.

Hailing the increased participation of girls in higher education, Modi said that at every level of education, the gross enrolment ratio of girls is higher than boys across the country. Even in higher education, innovation and technology fields, their participation has gone up significantly, he pointed out.

"We have continuously tried to help students go forward in the 21st century by changing the education system. In higher education, a lot of focus has been laid on the development of infrastructure and structural reforms. Over the last six years, we have opened at least one new IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) every year across the country, including the one at Dharwad in Karnataka. The National Medical Commission has been formed to bring in transparency in medical education which was lacking earlier and new laws have been enacted for reforms in medical education," he said. P7

Farooq faces ED's heat in cricket scam

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

FOUR days after six mainstream Opposition parties launched a Peoples Alliance to unitedly fight for the restoration of special powers under Article 370 to J&K, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday grilled National Conference president and former chief minister Farooq Abdullah for over seven hours in connection with the 2015 J&K Cricket Association scam.

While most parties described the ED action as political vendetta, Abdullah asserted he was clean and that the fight for Article 370's restoration will continue with or without him. In 2015, the CBI had registered a first information report into the alleged ₹113 crore scam when he was heading the state cricket association.

Abdullah's son Omar tweeted, "This is nothing less than political vendetta coming days after the formation of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration". PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said, "ED's sudden summons to Farooq displays the extent of Government of India's nervousness about mainstream parties in J&K fighting as one unit. Also reeks of political vendetta..."

EXPRESS READ

Judge gets 'letter bomb' over arrests of actresses in drugs case

Bengaluru: Judge GM Sheenappa of the Special Court for NDPS cases received a threat letter along with a detonator-like object through a post on Monday afternoon. The letter sender demanded that actresses Ragini Dwivedi and Sanjjanaa Galrani arrested in the drug case and "innocents" arrested over the DJ Halli riots case be released. P5

Kerala HC dismisses plea against leasing of T'Puram airport to Adani

Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Monday dismissed the state's petition challenging the Centre's decision to lease out the right of operation, management and development of the Thiruvananthapuram airport to Adani Enterprises. The court observed the arguments put forward by the state government are a classic example of the proverbial "sour grapes".

Malabar drill: Oz on board in Quad play

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

IN a major strategic shift, Australia on Monday shunned its reservations against being seen as part of the Quad grouping and decided to send the Royal Australian Navy warships to participate in the Malabar series of naval exercises.

Confirming the development, the Ministry of Defence said, "As India seeks to increase cooperation with other countries in the maritime security domain and in the light of increased defence cooperation with Australia, Malabar 2020 will see the participation of the Australian Navy."

Australia had participated in the 2007 exercise but had withdrawn since then after China raised concerns against this construct.

The upcoming exercise will be significant as all Quad members countries — the US, Japan, Australia and India — will be participating after 12 years. It was first mooted in 2007 and China was always opposed to this grouping.

All exercises usually have a 'harbor phase' involving personnel interaction. However, this year's will be 'non-contact - at sea' with the personnel on their own ships having no interaction with those of other participating nations.

The defence ministry said that the exercise will strengthen the coordination between the Navies of all the participating countries.

The Malabar exercises started in 1992 as a bilateral one between Navies of India and the US. Japan joined in 2015. The annual exercise was conducted off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea in 2018, off the coast the Japan in 2019 and will be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea this year.

CONTINUED ON: P9

CHINESE SOLDIER HELD

Indian Army apprehended a Chinese soldier who had "strayed" across the LAC in the Demchok sector of Eastern Ladakh on Monday. The soldier will be returned to the Chinese after completion of formalities | P9

Stop work on tallest Jesus statue, says HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court on Monday stayed the construction work for installing the tallest Jesus Christ statue in the world at Kapalabetta, around 80 km from Bengaluru, in Kanakapura taluk of Ramanagara district, saying no work should be carried out without its permission.

Acting on a public interest litigation (PIL) which stated that the land was allotted illegally for the installation of the statue and it was an attempt to grab government land to fulfil selfish ends of two politicians and their followers in the garb of self-styled guardians of the Christian community, the court restrained the Harobele Kapalabetta Abhivruddhi Trust from carrying out the construction work.

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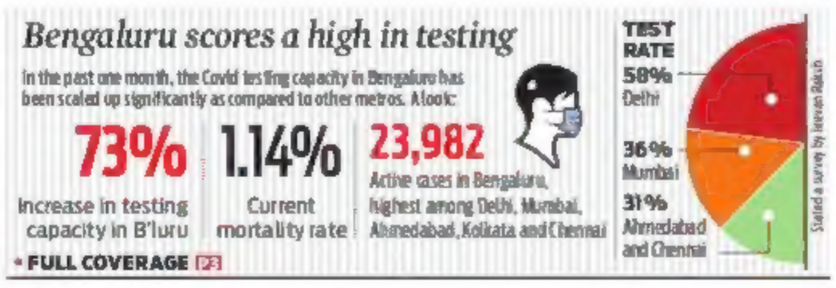
Bengaluru scores a high in testing
In the past one month, the Covid testing capacity in Bengaluru has been scaled up significantly as compared to other metros. A look:
73%
Increase in testing capacity in B'luru
1.14%
Current mortality rate
23,982
Active cases in Bengaluru, highest among Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Chennai
FULL COVERAGE P3
TEST RATE
58% Delhi
36% Mumbai
31% Ahmedabad and Chennai
Stated a survey by Ideven Rakesh

B'LURU EMERGES TRANSIT ROUTE FOR DRUG TO AUS

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

BENGALURU is emerging as the transit route for the banned precursor psychotropic drug pseudoephedrine from South India to Australia.

"During the lockdown, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Bengaluru, alone had seized over 25 kg of pseudoephedrine, which was being smuggled out from the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) to Australia through courier consignments," said sources in the DRI.

"In all the instances, the seized drug had reportedly originated from Chennai and the destination was Australia. There are multiple players in the drug network, who manufacture pseudoephedrine in small defunct chemical laboratories or 'clan labs' in and around Chennai and Hyderabad. They use small courier companies, which are part of the franchise of international courier companies, to ship the drug using fake identity cards and addresses," added sources.

The investigation so far has revealed the involvement of people not only from Chennai, but other districts in Tamil Nadu.

CONTINUED ON: P7

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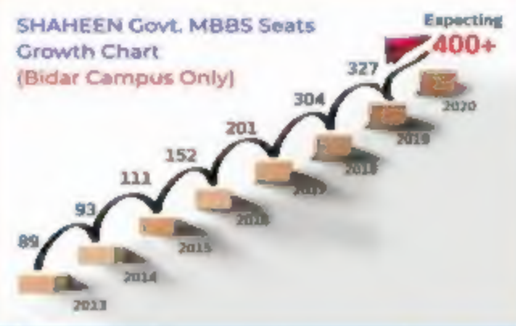

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